

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 25-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 13 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Support for Claim Amendments

Support for amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification. For example, support for the amendments can be found at least in paragraphs [0008], [0016], and [0034].

II. Interviews

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Lin and Examiner Meeks in the June 26 personal interview, and by Examiner Lin in the June 28 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of these interviews is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 13 are amended to comply with Examiner Meeks's helpful suggestions made during the interview. Further, as indicated by Examiner Lin in the June 28 telephone interview, these amendments overcome the applied references.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated during the June 26 personal interview, the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection is improper. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 25-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over (1) WO 99/12396 (Kobayashi) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016260 (Yoshida) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,030,700 (Forrest) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,390,618 (Wotton) and (2) Yamazaki in view of Yoshida in view of

Forrest and further in view of Wotton. The Office Action also rejects claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 01/70506 (Kawase) in view of Wotton, claims 13 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawase in view of Wotton and further in view of WO 98/24271 (Miyashita), and claims 1 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Aoki in view of Wotton. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As indicated during the June 28 telephone interview, none of the applied references teaches or suggests "discharging liquid droplets in an atmosphere having a low partial pressure of the solvent vapor, the low partial pressure of the solvent vapor being low enough to allow a drying rate of later arranged liquid droplets to be about equal to or greater than a drying rate of earlier arranged liquid droplets" as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 13. Thus, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of 1, 5, 7, 9 and 13, as well as the claims depending therefrom is respectfully requested.

V. Double Patenting

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 25-34 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9, 15, 20-21, and 22-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,623,097 in view of Wotton.

As discussed above, none of the applied references teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Thus, withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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